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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/733,407	12/12/2003	Joanne Elizabeth Burn	021565-122	4358

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EXAMINER

BAGGOT, BRENDAN O

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1638

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-6, drawn to method of increasing cellulose biosynthesis, classified in class 800, subclass 284.
 - II. Claims 7-16, drawn to method of decreasing cellulose biosynthesis, classified in class 800, subclass 285.
 - III. Claims 17-34, and 25-38, drawn to genes, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1
 - IV. Claim 39, drawn to 3rd method, classified in class 800, subclass 260.

In addition to an election of one of inventions I-IV listed above, Applicant is required to elect one of the following inventions A-D to which the claims must be restricted.

Group A, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1 or a sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:5.

Group B, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:2 or a sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:6.

Group C, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:3 or a sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:7.

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Group D, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:4 or a sequence encoding
SEQ ID NO:8.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I-II are unrelated each from each other. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different designs, modes of operation, and effects (MPEP § 802.01 and § 806.06). In the instant case, the different inventions: 1) achieve different effects, I and II each producing different plants each containing different compositional profiles; and 2) use different reagents and steps, namely different coding strands and different cloning strategies. Accordingly, I and II are properly restricted.

Inventions I-II, IV and III are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make another and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the process of III could be used to make many different types of plants and the plants of I-II could be made using one or more different genes and IV could be used to select for many different traits such as drought tolerance, dwarf height, herbicide resistance, or yield for a particular geographical area of the country. Accordingly, Inventions I-II, IV and III are properly restricted.

Inventions A-V are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different designs,

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modes of operation, and effects (MPEP § 802.01 and § 806.06). In the instant case, the different inventions are unrelated as they are drawn to structurally distinct polynucleotides and the different polypeptides encoded thereby.

Notice of Possible Rejoinder

3. Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and the product claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be considered for rejoinder. All claims directed a nonelected process invention must require all the limitations of an allowable product claim for that process invention to be rejoined.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 and 112. Until all claims to the elected product are found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowable product claim will not be rejoined. See MPEP

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§ 821.04(b). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution to require the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

4. It is desirable to avoid the submission of long lists of documents if it can be avoided. Eliminate clearly irrelevant and marginally pertinent cumulative information. If a long list is submitted, highlight those documents which have been specifically brought to applicant's attention and/or are known to be of most significance. MPEP 2000; See *Penn Yan Boats, Inc. v. Sea Lark Boats, Inc.*, 359 F. Supp. 948, 175 USPQ 260 (S.D. Fla. 1972), aff'd, 479 F.2d 1338, 178 USPQ 577 (5th Cir. 1973), cert. denied, 414 U.S. 874 (1974). *But cf. Molins PLC v. Textron Inc.*, 48 F.3d 1172, 33 USPQ2d 1823 (Fed. Cir. 1995).

5. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

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Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

6. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).


7. No Claim is allowed. Election is required


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brendan O. Baggot whose telephone number is 571/272-5265. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg can be reached on 571/272-0975. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Brendan O. Baggot
Patent Examiner
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3/8/06

bob